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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SHANG, ANNAN Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/745,606

Applicant(s)

NISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/17/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Chor et al (6,141,003)** in view of **Dunn et al (6,571,390)**.

As to claims 1-2, note **Chor et al** reference figures 2, 3 and 5-7, disclose channel bar user interface for an entertainment system and further disclose method for selectively storing data associated with a broadcast channel capable of being received and displayed by an entertainment system (Viewer Computing Unit 'VCU' 50), the method comprising:

the claimed "receiving programming data associated with the channel" is met by Receiver (REC) 88 (fig. 3, col. 3, lines 35-56 and col. 4, lines 17-42) which receives conventional television broadcast signals including IPG "programming" data which includes descriptions, etc., associated with the channel from a Broadcast source via wireless data link, Internet, hybrid fiber coax, etc., and displays a current program, TV show, a movie, news, sports, etc., on TV display 62 (fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 57-67);

Chor further teaches displaying IPG 64 (figs. 2 and 4-6) associated with storing of the channel in Memory (MM) 82 (e.g. RAM) including displaying an add icon 132 that is selectable for adding channel(s) Favorite or Watched channel list stored in MM-82 when the current channel is not stored in MM-82 and includes Favorite Channels "a mark" icon that is selectable for listing channels previously selected for adding to MM-88 (figs. 5-7, col. 6, lines 8-col. 7, line 9 and col. 9, lines 1-21); where

a user, uses Remote Control (RC) 56, Mouse 60, Keyboard etc., (col. 3, lines 40-45) to select to load IPG 64 of the channel associated with the TV Show currently being displayed into MM-88 of VCU-50 (a television with a STB) and loads the programming data associated with the channel currently being displayed into MM-88 (col. 3, line 57-col. 4, line 16, col. 5, lines 29-55, line 64-col. 6, line 8 and col. 7, lines 10-55).

Chor fails to explicitly teach displaying a remove icon in place of the add icon where the remove icon is selectable to remove the channel associated with the show currently been displayed from the memory when the current channel is stored in the memory.

However, note the **Dunn** reference figures 4-5, discloses interactive entertainment network system and method for customizing operation according to viewer preferences (col.4, lines 10-28) and further teaches displaying a remove icon that is selectable to remove the channel associated with the current displayed channel (col.9, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Dunn into the system of Chor to display a remove icon in place of the add icon to enable a user to selectively remove or delete unwanted channel(s) at anytime as desired and furthermore to free-up memory space to store new favorite channel(s).

As to claim 3, Chor further discloses removing a current channel from the list of stored channels (col. 9, lines 1-21).

As to claim 4, Chor further discloses selecting for display, a list of stored favorite of watched channels and displaying the list of stored channels (fig. 6, line 32-col. 7, line 9).

As to claim 5, Chor further discloses navigating through the list of stored channels (col. 3, lines 57-67 and col. 8, lines 5-18).

As to claim 6, Chor further discloses receiving IPG data comprises a digital bit stream including the IPG data includes sensory data corresponding to the IPG data (figs. 2, 4-7, col. 4, lines 1-16, col. 5, lines 5-col. 6, line 7 and line 45-col. 7, line 9).

As to claim 7, Chor further discloses where adding the IPG data to the favorite list comprises, executing software by CPU 54 (col. 4, lines 17-26), implemented within

the VCU 50 produces IPG 64 (figs. 2, 4-7), and selects an option icon of Channel Setting screen to prompt select the channel to add or remove to/from storage in MM-88 (col. 8, line 39-col. 9, line 21).

As to claim 8, Chor further discloses adding or saving the IPG data into MM-88 includes adding the channel number information and source (col. col. 8, line 39-col. 9, line 21)

As to claim 9, Chor further discloses selecting for display, a list of the favorite channels, selecting an option to cause VCU 50 to tune to a channel in the favorite list of the stored favorite channels to display a television program corresponding to the channel (col. 6, line 32-col. 7, line 30).

As to claim 10, Chor further discloses selecting an option to exit IPG to return to the current television programming (fig. 7, col. 8, lines 39-67 and col. 10, lines 7-34).

As to claim 11, note **Chor et al** reference figures 2, 3 and 5-7 disclose channel bar user interface for an entertainment system and further disclose an entertainment system (Viewer Computing Unit 'VCU' 50), the method comprising:

the claimed "a display monitor" is met by TV Display 62 of VCU-50, a television with a STB (fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 35-48);

the claimed "a broadcast receiver coupled to display monitor..." is met by Receiver (REC) 88 (fig. 3, col. 3, lines 35-56 and col. 4, lines 17-42) which is coupled to TV-D 62, the REC-88 includes a front-end unit capable of receiving conventional television broadcast data including IPG "programming" data which includes descriptions, etc., associated with the channel from a Broadcast source or Cable

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Headend via wireless data link, Internet, hybrid fiber coax, etc., and displays on TV-D 62, a current program, TV show, a movie, news, sports, etc., (fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 57-67), Memory (MM) 88 (e.g. RAM) for storing IPG 64 (figs. 2 and 4-6) associated with channel(s) in MM-82, Central Processing Unit (CPU) 54 coupled to MM-88 and CPU 54 coupled to receive IPG 64 associated with a broadcast channel (fig. 3 and col. 4, lines 17-42), CPU 54 executes a software to load IPG data associated with the channel currently being displayed into MM-88, and displays IPG 64 on TV-D 62, the IPG 64 includes an add icon 132 "first icon" (figs 5-7 and col. 9, lines 1-21) that is selectable to add the current channel to a favorite list of channels stored in MM-82, when the current channel is not included in the favorite channel list and including Favorite Channels "a mark" icon that is selectable for listing channels previously selected for adding to MM-88 (col. 5, lines 29-55, col. 6, lines 8-col. 7, line 9 and col. 7, lines 10-55); where a user of Remote Control (RC) 56 or Mouse 60, etc., to perform these various functions (col. 3, lines 40-45, line 57-col. 4, line 16).

Chor fails to explicitly teach displaying a remove icon in place of the add icon where the remove icon is selectable to remove the channel associated with the show currently been displayed from the memory when the current channel is stored in the memory.

However, note the **Dunn** reference figures 4-5, discloses interactive entertainment network system and method for customizing operation according to viewer preferences (col.4, lines 10-28) and further teaches displaying a remove icon

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that is selectable to remove the channel associated with the current displayed channel (col.9, lines 36-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Dunn into the system of Chor to display a remove icon in place of the add icon to enable a user to selectively remove or delete unwanted channel(s) at anytime as desired and furthermore to free-up memory space to store new favorite channel(s).

As to claims 14 and 15, Chor further discloses where VCU 50 includes television receiver or STB and IRD (fig. 3 and col. 3, lines 35-67).

As to claim 16, Chor further discloses where VCU 50 CPU 54 executes software to add the currently displayed channel to the favorite or watched channel list stored in MM-88 when CPU 54 detects a selection of the add icon (col. 6, line 32-col. 7, line 21 and col. 8, line 39-col. 9, line 21).

As to claims 17-20, Chor further discloses where TV-D 62 further comprises various icons that are selectable to display IPG of watched or favorite channels stored in MM-88, which further comprises graphical portion, scrollable, which displays a show corresponding to a channel in the list during scrolling and further includes text portion, which includes a description of TV show corresponding to the channel and where the various icons are selectable to exit the IPG (col. 6, line 32-col. 7, line 21, col. 8, line 39-col. 9, line 21 and line 46-col. 10, line 24).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 and 14-20 are have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The amendment to all the independent claims necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection discussed above. This office action is a non-final.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Robarts et al (2005/0278741) disclose query-based electronic program guide.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annan Q. Shang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Annan Q. Shang